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*Easy Read Edition*

# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 5: What is Dobbs v. Jackson  
Women's Health Organization?**

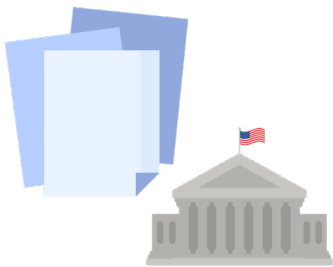
*This toolkit was made possible in part by the generous support of the Ford Foundation and the WITH Foundation. No WITH or Ford Foundation funds were used to produce the components of this toolkit which may constitute lobbying.*

# Words to Know in Part 5



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Amicus brief

A way for people who aren't part of a lawsuit to tell a court what decision it should make.



## **Bodily autonomy**

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



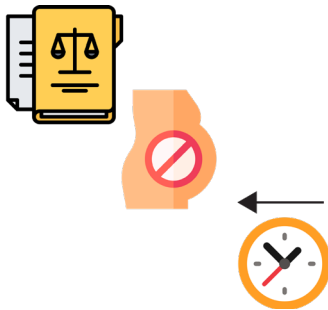
## Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Another Supreme Court case. The Supreme Court will make a decision in it this year, in 2022. We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization "Dobbs" for short. In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old. This goes against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey. Now, Mississippi is asking the Supreme Court to change its mind. Mississippi wants the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.



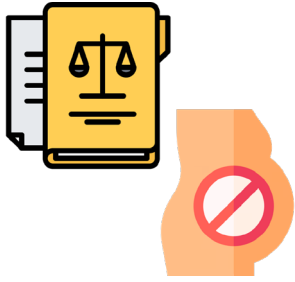
## Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



## Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



## Roe v. Wade

A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Sexually assaulted

Being forced to have sex with someone.





## Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States.  
They have the final say on laws.

# What is Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization?

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Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization is another Supreme Court case.



It was decided by the Supreme Court in 2022.



We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization "Dobbs" for short.



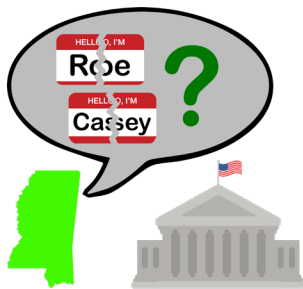
In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old.



This went against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey.



Mississippi asked the Supreme Court to change its mind.



Mississippi wanted the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.



ASAN and another disability rights group, DREDF, filed an amicus brief in the Dobbs case.



An amicus brief is a way for people to tell a court what decision it should make.



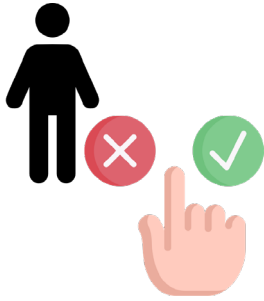
People write amicus briefs for lawsuits they care about.



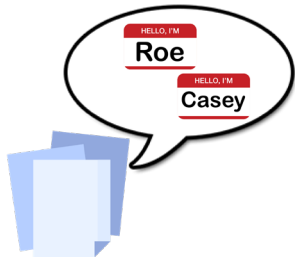
People who write an amicus brief aren't part of the lawsuit.



The brief explains how important it is for people with disabilities to make choices.



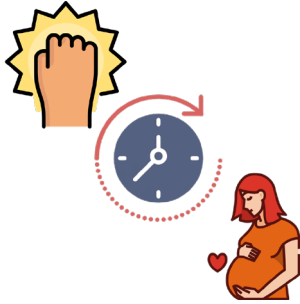
This includes choices about our bodies.



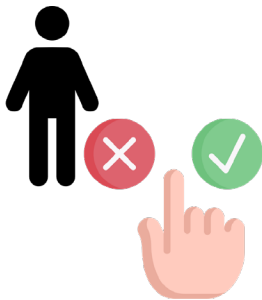
The brief says that the Supreme Court should decide to keep its decisions in Roe and Casey.

The brief talks about these things:

## The 15-week abortion ban would deny the bodily autonomy of pregnant people.



People have bodily autonomy all the time, including when they are pregnant.



Bodily autonomy means people control their bodies.



Nobody else should decide what a person does with their body.



If the Supreme Court agrees with the ban, they will hurt bodily autonomy. They will say pregnant people don't have bodily autonomy if their pregnancy is more than 15 weeks along.



That is not right.

## The 15-week abortion ban would be especially bad for people with disabilities.



Some disabilities get worse while a person is pregnant.



Some disabilities can get so bad that if the person doesn't have an abortion, they could die.



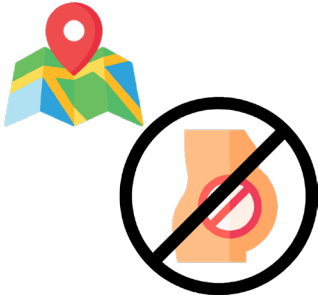
But not all people find out they are pregnant before their pregnancy is 15 weeks along.





Some disabilities that get bad with pregnancy only get really bad at the end of pregnancy.

## A ban would mean people have to travel farther to get an abortion.



A lot of places have really limited access to abortions.



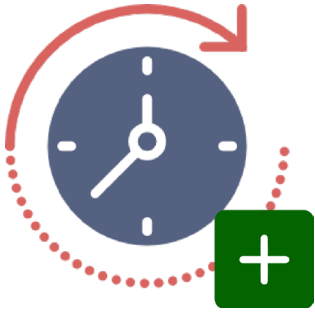
Some states only have one clinic left that performs abortions.



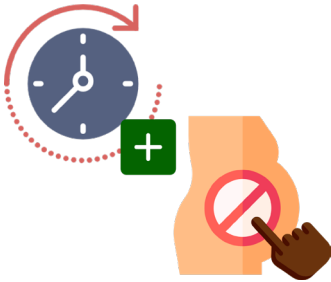
But accessing abortion can be even harder for people with disabilities.



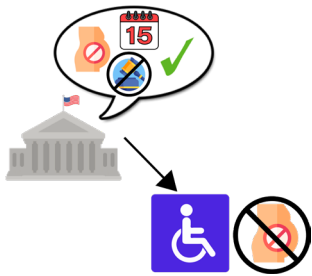
We might not be able to travel easily to a clinic to get an abortion.



Or, we might need a lot of time to consider all our choices.



We might need a lot of time to make the decision to have an abortion.



If the Supreme Court agrees with the 15-week ban, that would take away many people with disabilities' access to abortion.

## Some people are on medications that would make it really bad if they got pregnant.



Some of these medications can be harmful to a fetus.



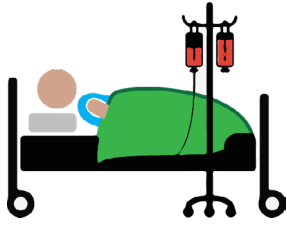
Other medications cause really bad side effects during pregnancy.



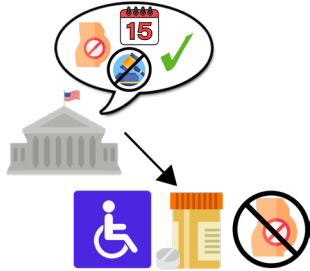
Not everyone can safely stop taking their medications during pregnancy.



Some people will die without their medications.



Some people will get really sick without their medications.

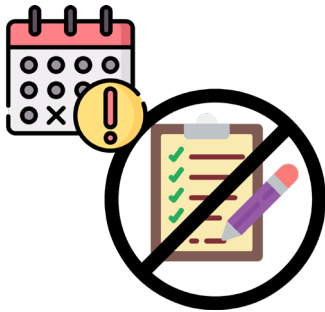


If the Supreme Court agrees with the 15-week ban, that would mean people taking these medications might not be able to get abortions.

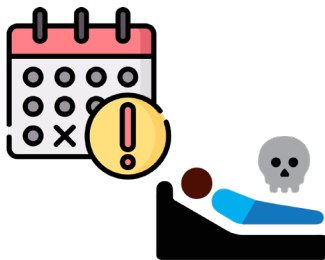
## The exceptions the ban has aren't good enough.



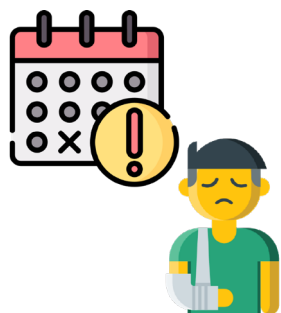
The Mississippi 15-week ban has some exceptions for abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.



But those exceptions don't cover many reasons people with disabilities might need abortions.



There is an exception if the pregnant person's life is in danger.



And there is an exception if continuing the pregnancy will hurt someone physically in a bad way that can't be undone.



But the ban doesn't say anything about hurting someone mentally or emotionally.



Some disabilities can get really bad during pregnancy.



But they don't put the pregnant person in danger of dying.



And they don't put the pregnant person in danger of getting physically hurt in a way that can't be undone.



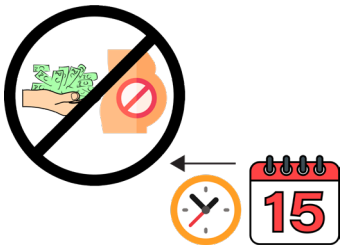
So the exceptions to the ban are not good enough.



## People with disabilities are more likely to be poor than people without disabilities.



It could take a person with disabilities a long time to save up for an abortion.



They might not be able to afford an abortion before the 15th week of pregnancy



Then, they might not be able to get an abortion at all.

# A ban on abortion might lead to more people with disabilities getting sterilized when we don't want to.



Getting **sterilized** means having a surgery so we can't get pregnant anymore.



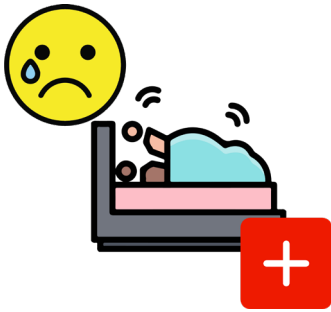
If we are under guardianship, our guardians might worry about us getting pregnant.



They might worry if we got pregnant, we couldn't get an abortion.



Then, our guardians might decide to sterilize us.



Sometimes, guardians make this decision because people with disabilities are more likely to be sexually assaulted.



**Sexually assaulted** means being forced to have sex with someone.



There is no exception in the ban if we get pregnant from being sexually assaulted.

## Being able to get an abortion is part of bodily autonomy.



If the Supreme Court agrees with the abortion ban, it would hurt bodily autonomy.



That might lead to people not being able to have bodily autonomy in other ways.



It might lead to people with disabilities being *forced* to have abortions.